

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-04

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /005 R

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DRAFTED BY: NEA/ EGY: MSTERNER: CFF

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APPROVED BY: NEA/ EGY: MSTERNER

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R 171634 Z MAY 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 094291

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO ADDIS ABABA ALGIERS
KINSHASA PARIS RABAT TRIPOLI FROM TUNIS 16 MAY REPEATED

QTE TUNIS 2733

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAU TS

SUBJECT: PRESSURE TO MOVE OAU SEAT FROM ADDIS ABABA

DEPARTMENT PASS CAIRO

1. FONMIN MASMOUDI TOLD ME MAY 15 THAT TUNISIA DOES NOT
AGREE WITH QADHAFI' S PROPOSAL TO CHANGE OAU SEAT FROM
ADDIS ABABA TO CAIRO. PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA, REPORTEDLY
AFTER SEVERAL DAYS' DELAY, FINALLY RECEIVED QADHIFI' S
SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE (MINISTER OF YOUTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
ZINTANI) ON MAY 12, WHO REPORTEDLY CARRIED MESSAGE TO
BOURGUIBA ALONG THIS LINE AFTER MEETING ALSO WITH BOUMEDIENE.
BUT TUNISIANS CONSIDER QADHAIF PROPOSAL UNREALISTIC.

2. MASMOUDI DID SAY, HOWEVER, THAT HE FAVORS MOVING OAU
CAPITAL TO ANOTHER COUNTRY IN BLACK AFRICA. HE MENTIONED
SPECIFICALLY KINSHASA, THOUGH HE NOTED THAT NIGERIA AND
CAMEROON WOULD ALSO BE ACCEPTABLE. MASMOUDI MENTIONED IN
GENERAL TERMS HIS OBJECTIONS TO ETHIOPIA: SUSPECION OF
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ISRAELI PENETRATION IN THE RED SEA; CONTINUING ERITREAN REBELLION; THE SOMALI- ETHIOPIAN CONFLICT WHICH IS WARMING UP, AND " DISCRIMINATION" AGAINST MUSLIMS WITHIN ETHIOPIA. MASMOUDI SAID THAT THE OAU SHOULD BE SHELTERED FROM ALL OF THIS.

3. WE HAVE REPORT FROM A FRENCH EMBASSY SOURCE THAT BOURGUIBA AND BOUMEDIENE DISCUSSED MATTER AT SOME LENGTH DURING THEIR MAY 11-12 MEETING. FRENCH BELIEVE THAT ALGERIA AND TUNISIA WILL MAKE JOINT PROPOSAL ALONG THIS LINE DURING OAU SUMMIT.

4. SINCE MASMOUDI IMPLIED THAT KINSHASA WOULD BE GOT' S FIRST CHOICE(AND SINCE WE KNOW FROM PAST HISTORY THIS MATTER THAT MOBUTU IS HARDLY OPPOSED TO IDEA), IT IS INTERESTING THAT MASMOUDI SPENT SEVERAL DAYS CONFERRING WITH MOBUTU DURING LATTER' S PRIVATE VISIT TO JERBA LAST WEEK. (HE COMMENTED THAT MOBUTU SEEMS TO HAVE MORE " UNDERSTANDING" FOR ARAB CAUSE THAN PREVIOUSLY.) IT MAY ALSO BE RELEVANT THAT MOBUTU, DURING SAME VISIT, RECEIVED SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR QADHAFI: RCC MEMBER MAJOR MUHAYSHI.

5. MASMOUDI IS LEAVING FOR ADDIS MAY 17 WE ARE STILL NOT SURE WHETHER BOURGUIBA HIMSELF WILL ATTEND SUMMIT. HE PROMISED HAILE SELASSIE' S EMISSARY THREE WEEKS AGO THAT HE WOULD DO SO IF HIS HEALTH PERMITS, AND WE SUSPECT BOURGUIBA WOULD LIKE TO BE THERE, IF ONLY TO WEIGH IN STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF BLACK AFRICAN SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN CAUSE. INDEPENDENT ARABIC LANGUAGE DAILY AS- SABAH, HOWEVER, CARRIED NEW S REPORT MAY 14 THAT BOURGUIBA WILL NOT ATTEND.

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